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Measure in our Struggle against Air Raids
Tien Shih-chieh, Wen Chen, Shanghai,

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EDITORIAL: DISPERSION AND INLAND MOVEMENT AS
A CONCRETE MEASURE IN OUR STRUGGLE AGAINST AIR RAIDS

Wen Chen

It is an extremely irrational situation that Shanghai, a small area of about 100 square kilometers, has been settled by a huge population of 5 to 6 million people. The situation is further aggravated by the fact that among the present Shanghai residents, only a small number are engaged in productive activity or are gainfully employed. It is estimated that there are not over 3 million persons who are employed; the other 2 million are either seeking employment, temporarily staying with their city relatives, or taking refuge from their famine-stricken home towns. Some of these residents formerly lived a parasitic life; now they still have some money and hence remain voluntarily unemployed. Others may have made up their minds to engage in productive activities but they are reluctant to leave Shanghai. In short, Shanghai is a peculiar industrial and commercial city which grew out of an environment completely dependent on foreign imperialism. On the surface it has all the conveniences of a comfortable life. Although earning a living is not easy in Shanghai, there still are opportunities for employment. Therefore, many people have been attracted to stay in this so-called "paradise".

As a consequence of the establishment of the People's regime, things in Shanghai have been changing ever since the liberation. However, the coastal blockade will certainly persist for a considerable length of time despite the fact that we have thrown the foreign imperialist countries out the door. Hence the Central

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People's Government has decided to shift the economic weight of Shanghai to inland China. The Northeast area is going to be the center of heavy industry. Following Northeast China, the nation's heavy industry will gradually develop in an orderly way in North, Northwest and Southwest China. Taking the six provinces in East China as a unit, industrial investment in the future will concentrate on Shantung and Huainan provinces before it spreads to the other four provinces -- Kiangsu, Anhwei, Fukien, and Chekiang. In other words, the relative importance of Shanghai's industry and commerce will be deliberately reduced to a lower but more reasonable level. The future of Shanghai will not be a false prosperity; it will be a steady and healthy growth. In fact, Shanghai's industry and commerce should actually look forward to benefiting from the economic development of the China inland. There are too many factories in Shanghai; they should do what they can to move to the inland. There are too many industrial and commercial leaders and workers in Shanghai; they should, in their best interest, move to the inland for better opportunities instead of being seduced by Shanghai. Since it is impossible to have Shanghai returned to its peculiar prosperity which prevailed before the war, Shanghai is no longer a land of opportunities for capable men and women. And in order to enable China to develop its economy wholesomely, it is necessary that we limit the cancerous development of Shanghai's economy and set it back to a normal and healthy state.

Because we want to liberate Taiwan, the US and Chiang bandits are putting up a stubborn defense there. Hence they

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continuously use US-made planes to bomb Shanghai, with dockyards, vessels, and power plants as their principal targets. It looks as though for some months to come we must maintain an air defense. Since the People's Liberation Army has the liberation of Taiwan as its present foremost responsibility, it must concentrate its effort on training the armed forces for front-line battle. Furthermore, the defense of Shanghai is a matter of supporting the front. The Chinese people must use their efforts to minimize the loss of life and property, particularly when these lives and properties can be directed to producing greater and more useful results. During this great struggle against air attack, the people of Shanghai are confronted with two choices: either to remain in Shanghai or to leave for the inland of China. If all of us stay in Shanghai, we will not be able to carry out effective measures against air attack; for if we stay, Shanghai will have a shortage of foodstuffs and other materials with its present huge volume of daily consumption; the available power supply capacity will fall lower and lower, the government's burden will become extremely heavy, and industrial production will ultimately not be able to carry on normally.

To evacuate the plants and to move the population to the inland of China thus constitute the most essential tasks in the struggle against air attack. This is in complete accord with the Common Program and with the needs of the new China. It is also in the interest of the people and their families. Although Shanghai's power supply has been partly restored since 6 February 1950 due to the bold efforts of the power plants, it is still lagging far be-

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hind the level prevailing before the air attack began. And it would take a long time to achieve the former power supply capacity of 200,000 kilowatt hours. Therefore, it becomes necessary to move some factories and population to the inland of China.

DISPERSING THE POPULATION

To disperse the population amounts to distributing the bulk of the manpower to the inland; every man and woman possesses intelligence and working ability which, when developed properly, can be used to perform some task. On the surface, Shanghai seems full of opportunities. Actually jobs are scarce because too many people are going after them. On the other hand, opportunities are wide open in the interior. If capable men or women go to the interior with determination, they can find jobs without difficulty and live comfortably with their families. In fact, the Central People's Government has invested great amounts of money on irrigation, prevention of natural calamities, and reclamation; it has given various forms of assistance to farmers in Northeast China, Shantung, North Anhwei, North Kiangsu, Chekiang, Kiangsi, Hupei, Hunan, and elsewhere. Those who are moving to the interior will certainly be given proper care and be assigned to a productive job by the local government. As the social order in the rural areas is improving daily, and as the people's government is waging a campaign to increase production and to cope with famine, there exist in the interior a vast plenty of opportunities with good prospects.

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The future there is unlimited; for labor is scarce in the interior, while it is over-abundant in Shanghai. A new horizon awaits those who move to the interior, whether to their native towns there or to places new to them. By moving to the inland of China, they are helping the country as well as themselves.

If you are a business man, it is in your best interest to go to the interior to organize a cooperative or store; in doing so, you are helping the government to stimulate the circulation of goods between cities and villages. Railroad transport is running smoothly and river traffic has been restored. The tax administration has been simplified and corruption eliminated; a law-abiding merchant need no longer fear being cheated or exploited. If you are a self-employed producer or artisan, perhaps you have already realized that there is a much brighter future for you in the interior while Shanghai is confronted with more and more difficult problems. The difficulties and grievances you may have had will be given a hearing by the government, while your opinion and suggestions will be given consideration. Your own industrious efforts will receive fair compensation.

If you are a technician, an office worker, or a skilled worker, you are particularly wanted by the people in the interior. In fact, the governments in the Northeast and Northwest China have sent a special mission to Shanghai for personnel; Shantung Province also needs a number of personnel. If you go there, you will be quite welcome and receive great respect. You will be able to apply your specialized knowledge and develop your talent, for

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the government has invested more money there than in Shanghai and you are needed there more than you are here in Shanghai. In Shanghai you remain a man of little significance, but in the interior you are badly wanted for your services and hence you can more contently build up your own career to serve your beloved fatherland. If you choose to go to Northeast China, you are going to have a more comfortable life than in Shanghai; in Northeast China prices are stable, food is cheaper, rice is plentiful, fruits are plentiful, and -- what is even more attractive -- children receive education at lower cost and the housing situation is better. Don't be afraid of the northern weather just because you are a southerner; many southerners have got so accustomed to their life in Peking, Tientsin, Shenyang, and Dairen that they can no longer adjust very well to the southern climate. In fact, men feel more comfortable in the dry weather of the North. During winter time, everyone in the North can afford to buy coal for house heating. If you really intend to go to work in the interior, any scientific institution will be glad to give you assistance regardless of whether you are a member or not.

RELOCATING FACTORIES TO THE INTERIOR

From the standpoint of available power supply, the Northeast, North China and Shantung are better than Shanghai. Surplus electric power exists in varying degrees in Harbin, Changchen, Kirin, Shenyang, Fushun, An-shan, An-tung, Dairen, Chinchow, Tang-shan, Tientsin, Tai-yuan, Kai-feng, Cheng-chow, Tsingtao,

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Pao-shan, Tsi-nan, Ssueh, Yang-chow, Soochow, Nanking, Wu-han, Chang-sha, Hsiang-tan, Nan-chang, etc. However, proximity to the sources of raw materials and to the market is more important than the availability of power supply in selecting industrial sites. Nearly all far-sighted industrialists know that most of the raw materials are not produced in Shanghai, and that Shanghai is now not the best market for various industrial products. Previously, due to the civil war and the existence of foreign settlements in Shanghai, there did exist a surplus power supply which induced many factories to concentrate in Shanghai. But now the situation is reversed. We must carefully think over whether Shanghai can be safe and remain a paradise in a national emergency, and whether business there can be prosperous. Yes, Shanghai should retain a number of industrial plants to carry on normal production and persist in our struggle with the enemy, but it certainly cannot afford to feed so large a population and operate so many factories. If we do not prepare now for moving to the interior in case of emergency, many factories will be caught unprepared and would not be able to resume production without long delay. This would mean a great disaster to us indeed.

Many factories are now preparing to supply their own electric power as a precautionary measure. This of course is good. The best fuel for supplying electric power is coal; steam engines use bituminous coal, and coal-gas engines use anthracite coal. If necessary, fuel oil may be used. Gasoline is too expensive, while the use of charcoal and wood as fuel result in great waste of natural resources and thus cannot be encouraged.

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The alternative solution to the power problem would be that industrial plants appropriate the money they were prepared to spend on fuel for financing their relocation to the interior. In other words, they can use what they allocated to buy fuel to finance transportation. If the amount of money is not sufficient, they should sell part of their finished inventory of products and raw materials. Furthermore, the stockholders should raise some funds for moving the factories to the interior, as this movement contributes to the further development of their business. They may also ask for help from the local governments and banks in the new localities. All these matters will be discussed and plans be drawn up by the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce, the Association of Commerce and Industry, and government agencies concerned. Plants which are moving to the interior will receive the warmest hospitality from the local government and industrial and commercial circles.

All in all, present dispersion and inland movement are part of the task of building a new China. Things which are in accord with national interest are also in accord with the interest of the individuals. The dispersion movement will apparently yield great advantage in the long run. The population of Shanghai will perhaps be reduced to 3 million. New towns, villages, and industrial centers will grow in the interior of China as a consequence of the inland movement. Indeed, the dispersion movement, carried out according to definite plans, is a concrete step to pushing China toward wholesome development.

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